MOHAMMED ABBAS EXTRADITION/Passage

SUBJECT: A resolution urging the extradition to the United States of Mohammed Abbas . . . S. Res. 253. Passage.

ACTION: RESOLUTION AGREED TO, 99-0

SYNOPSIS: As passed, S. Res. 253 will urge the appropriate foreign government to detain and extradite Mohammed Abbas for the murder of Leon Klinghoffer. In 1986, Mohammed Abbas planned, trained, and financed the seizure by Palestinian Liberation Front terrorists of the Achille Lauro cruise ship. After the ship was seized, the terrorists executed an unarmed, 70-year-old passenger in a wheelchair who was a Jewish-American citizen, and then threw his body overboard.

Those favoring passage contended:

Ten years have passed since the brutal murder of Leon Klinghoffer by Arab terrorists. Mohammed Abbas, otherwise known as Abu Abbas, was the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Front, which committed the murder after it seized the Achille Lauro cruise ship in a terrorist attack. Due to his role in masterminding the attack, Abbas was tried and convicted in absentia by an Italian court for the murder of Mr. Klinghoffer. Abu Abbas has yet to be brought to justice, however. Just last week, he surfaced in Gaza for a meeting of the Palestine National Council, at which he was quoted as saying that Mr. Klinghoffer was killed because he "had started to incite the passengers" against the terrorists and that his killing was a "mistake." We are disgusted by those statements. It is a sick lie to say that a 70-year-old, unarmed man in a wheelchair posed a threat to heavily armed terrorists, and Mr. Klinghoffer's murder was much more than a "mistake." It was an evil crime against an American citizen that must be punished. We therefore strongly support this resolution to urge the United States Government to seek the detention and extradition of Mohammed Abbas.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to passage.

(See other side) **YEAS (99)** NAYS (0) NOT VOTING (1) Republicans **Democrats Democrats** Republican Republicans **Democrats** (52 or 100%) (47 or 100%) (0 or 0%) (0 or 0%) **(1)** (0)Abraham Helms Akaka Inouye Thompson-2 Ashcroft Hutchison Baucus Johnston Inhofe Kennedy Bennett Biden Jeffords Bond Bingaman Kerrey Brown Kassebaum Boxer Kerry Burns Kempthorne Bradley Kohl Campbell Kyl Breaux Lautenberg Chafee Lott Bryan Leahy Bumpers Coats Levin Lugar Cochran Mack Lieberman Bvrd Cohen McCain Conrad Mikulski Coverdell McConnell Daschle Moseley-Braun Murkowski Moynihan Craig Dodd D'Amato Nickles Dorgan Murray DeWine Pressler Nunn Exon Feingold Dole Roth Pell EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE: Domenici Santorum Feinstein Pryor Faircloth Shelby Ford Reid 1—Official Buisiness Simpson Glenn Robb Frist 2—Necessarily Absent Gorton Smith Graham Rockefeller 3—Illness Gramm Snowe Harkin Sarbanes 4—Other Grams Specter Heflin Simon Grassley Wellstone Stevens Hollings SYMBOLS: Gregg Thomas Wyden AY—Announced Yea Thurmond Hatch AN-Announced Nav Hatfield Warner PY-Paired Yea PN-Paired Nay